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**Food and Agriculture Organization  
of the United Nations****Economic Commission for Europe****Food and Agriculture Organization**

Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry

European Forestry Commission

**Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics,  
Economics and Management****Thirty-eighth session**

Geneva, 23-24 March 2016

Item 1 of the Provisional Agenda

**Adoption of the Agenda****Annotated provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session<sup>1</sup>**Session to be held at the Palais des Nations (Room VIII), Geneva, starting at 10 a.m. on  
Wednesday, 23 March 2016.

This annotated agenda provides guidance to delegates to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM) on the structure of the meeting and main topics to be discussed.

The Working Party shall, for each work area, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year. Further, the Working Party shall review, on an ongoing basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the work areas as well as cooperation between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities.

Activities carried out by the secretariat since the thirty-seventh session of the JWPFSEM can be found in the background documents, which will be made available before the meeting. Presentations by the secretariat will not repeat the content of the background documents, but rather focus on the main points for consideration under each work area.

The main issues to be considered during this session of the Working Party are:

- Results of the pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR)
- Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE2013) results, revision and capacity building
- 2022 Revision of the Harmonized Description and Coding System
- Capacity building and projects under the United Nations Development Account
- Roundtable discussion on potential implications of UNFCCC COP21 to forests and the forest sector
- Preparation for the strategic review of the Integrated Programme of Work

<sup>1</sup> Documents and more information, including the registration form, available at [www.unece.org/forests/wpsem2016](http://www.unece.org/forests/wpsem2016).

## **I. Provisional agenda**

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Report from the joint seventy-third session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and thirty-eighth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)
3. Report from the International Day of Forests “*Forests and Water*”
4. Update on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international policy processes with impact on forests
5. Guidance on work areas
  - (a) Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment
  - (b) Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice
  - (c) Work area 3: Communication and outreach
  - (d) Work area 4: Capacity-building
6. Roundtable discussion on potential implications of UNFCCC COP21 for forests and the forest sector
7. Report by the secretariat on the implementation of the outcomes of the self-evaluations from the thirty-fifth and thirty-seventh Working Party sessions
8. Strategic Review of Integrated Programme of Work
9. Other business
10. Date and place of next meeting
11. Election of officers
12. Adoption of the report

## II. Background information

1. The Working Party is a subsidiary body of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and the FAO European Forestry Commission.
2. The Working Party contributes to the implementation of the integrated programme of work of the two bodies (ECE/TIM/2013/2). It reports to the Committee and the Commission and meets annually to:
  - (a) Provide guidance on the implementation of all areas of the programme of work;
  - (b) Review the work of Teams of Specialists and facilitate the exchange of information on their work;
  - (c) Identify priorities for action and relevant emerging issues; and transmit suggested priorities and specific recommendations to the Committee and the Commission for consideration.
3. The Working Party shall, for each work area, on the basis of a report from the secretariat, review and comment on the activities undertaken during the past year and the plans for the forthcoming year.
4. The Working Party shall review, on an on-going basis, the work of the Teams of Specialists and their contribution to the work areas, as well as cooperation between the Teams of Specialists to ensure the most effective and efficient implementation of their activities. This includes:
  - (a) Receive and discuss the reports from the Teams of Specialists in order to enhance the understanding of their activities and assess their work plans; when needed, the Working Party may review and recommend updated mandates for endorsement by the parent bodies;
  - (b) Identify possible synergies; and facilitate the exchange of experiences between Teams of Specialists and delegations from member States;
  - (c) Increase the visibility and impact of the work of Teams of Specialists among Member States and within the relevant bodies in the United Nations.
5. The Working Party, as part of its work for the Committee and Commission, shall:
  - (a) Propose priorities for activities in the work areas and on relevant emerging issues;
  - (b) Develop, upon request from the parent bodies, methodologies for use in economic analysis of the sector, as well as techniques for collecting, validating analysing and disseminating information and statistics;
  - (c) Undertake, upon request from the parent bodies, ad hoc projects on economics and statistics related to forestry, forest products and forest policies and institutions;
  - (d) Contribute and provide technical advice to the Committee and the Commission on issues under consideration by those bodies, including the preparation of studies on the status and future of forests and on the forest industry such as the outlook studies and the Forest Products Annual Market Reviews;
  - (e) Reach out to other sectors to discuss issues of common interest, including best practices in sustainable forestry management and their impact on the overall sustainability of forests, natural resources management, and other issues such as biodiversity and climate change;
  - (f) Work together with other international bodies, including Forest Europe, Eurostat, the International Tropical Timber Organization and the Conference of European Statisticians, with a view to coordinating activities and avoiding any duplication of effort.

### **III. Annotations to the Provisional Agenda**

#### **Item 1: Adoption of the agenda**

6. In accordance with both parent bodies' rules of procedure and established practice, the first item on the agenda is the adoption of the agenda.

#### **Item 2: Report from the joint seventy-third session of the ECE Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry (COFFI) and thirty-eighth session of the FAO European Forestry Commission (EFC)**

7. The Secretariat will present a summary of the discussions and will highlight implications for the work of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management (JWPFSEM).

#### **Item 3: Report from the International Day of Forests “*Forests and Water*”**

8. The Secretariat will present the results of the thematic workshop held on Monday, 21 March 2016, for the consideration of the Working Party and possible follow-up.

#### **Item 4: Update on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international policy processes with impact on forests**

9. Participants of the session will be presented with the latest developments related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as relevant for forests and the forest sector. The focus will be on decisions resulting from the “UN Summit to adopt the Post-2015 Development Agenda” and the monitoring and review system of Sustainable Development Goals which has been in the process of development ever since.

10. The delegates will also be briefed on other international policy developments with impact on forest statistics, economy and management in particular the outcomes of the eleventh session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF11) as well as of the 7th Ministerial Conference on the Protection of Forests in Europe.

11. Participants will be invited to consider the outcomes of these policy processes in the future work of the JWPFSEM, as appropriate.

#### **Item 5: Guidance on work areas**

12. Delegates are requested to review the activities of 2015 and the first quarter of 2016. They are also expected to review future work plans and indicate their support or where changes are needed. This guidance should cover both work of the secretariat as well as the work of the Teams of Specialists. Reports on the activities of the Teams of Specialists will be made available before the meeting. Each Team of Specialists will report under its core work area, as identified in section I of this document.

13. Work delivered by the secretariat since the thirty-seventh session of the JWPFSEM can be found in the background documents, which will be made available prior to the meeting. The secretariat presentation “Implementation by the secretariat” will not repeat all achievements outlined in the background documents in order to allow for more discussion time.

14. Some highlights from the implementation by the secretariat include:

**(a). Work area 1: Data, monitoring and assessment**

The Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section was very successful in collecting data on forest and wood products. The Joint Section received 44 replies to the Joint ECE/FAO/ITTO/Eurostat Forest Sector Questionnaire, 35 replies to the Timber Forecast Questionnaire, 21 replies for the Country Market Statements, 28 replies to the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry (JWEE) 2013 and has already 26 replies to the Forest Ownership Questionnaire (6 more replies are pending). The secretariat wishes to express its gratitude to the significant effort by member states, in particular national correspondents, in this work. More detailed information about data collection will be provided in the background document prior to the meeting. Member States will be invited to comment on data collection activities.

The secretariat will update the Working Party on the final results of the Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2015. The process was supported by the Joint Section through the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management, the FRA Advisory Group and the Collaborative Forest Resources Questionnaire. The Working Party will be invited to discuss the experience from the FRA 2015 and provide advice on the regional contribution to the subsequent process.

The secretariat will inform the Working Party about the next revision cycle of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS 2022). Countries will be invited to suggest proposals for changing the HS related to wood products. The secretariat will coordinate with the Inter-secretariat Working Group (IWG) for preparing an initial joint submission to the World Customs Organization (WCO) in September 2016.

The Joint Section, with the support of the Team of Specialists on Wood Energy, made the first steps towards a publication on wood energy in the UNECE region. The publication will use the data collected through the Joint Wood Energy Enquiry as a basis for the analysis.

The Joint Section published the Forest Products Annual Market Review 2014-2015. Based on the data collected, this publication provides a unique assessment of recent market developments that is freely available to everyone. The secretariat is coordinating an external readership survey. Member states will be invited to comment on the structure and content of the publication.

The Secretariat will present the results of the pilot project on the System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests (SEMAFOR). SEMAFOR builds on the Joint Section's experience and work done by the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Monitoring Sustainable Forest Management in monitoring and evaluation of forest functions and sustainable forest management developed over the last 15 years. The joint seventy-third session of the Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry and thirty-eighth session of the European Forestry Commission requested the Working Party to provide recommendations to COFFI and EFC. The secretariat was asked to present an update on the pilot project at the next COFFI and EFC session.

**(b). Work area 2: Policy dialogue and advice**

The joint section continued monitoring the implementation of the Rovaniemi Action Plan for the Forest Sector in a Green Economy and dissemination of its concepts. The Rovaniemi Action Plan was presented to a broader audience, outside the forest sector, at an event during EXPO2015 in Milan. The Joint Section supported member States in facilitating information and contributing to global policy forest-related processes including: (i) the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), (ii) the eleventh Session of the United Nations Forum on Forests and (iii) a new climate agreement of the United Nations Convention on Climate Change. A background paper on global and regional policy context was presented to the ECE/FAO Team of Specialists on Forest Policy and an update on recent policy developments was presented at Silva2015. Both were welcomed by the member States and the Committee and the Commission requested that the UNECE and FAO continue to regularly update member States on forest-related global and

regional policy developments and to contribute to the implementation and review process of 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. Member states will be invited to comment on the past work on policy dialogue and advice and provide guidance on future work.

**(c). Work area 3: Communication and outreach**

The Working Party will be informed about the Section's contribution to global and regional events organized in 2015 that included 11<sup>th</sup> session of UNFF, World Forestry Congress and the Ministerial Conferences of Forest Europe. The Joint Section organized two major events in this work area since the last session of the Working Party: The European Forest Week "Silva2015" from 02-06 November 2015 in Engelberg, Switzerland. The event comprised more than 25 forest related events were organized under the third European Forest Week, which opened with awarding winners of the FAO photo contest "Value of Forests" and the XII International Junior Forestry Contest (organized by the Russian Federation). It featured a display of almost 40 forest-related posters from research institutes across the ECE region. Side events covered a vast range of topics; including: innovative applications of wood, green jobs in the forest sector, forest protection measures, forest biodiversity and wildlife management. The Joint Section will organize the International Day of Forests 2016 (IDF) on "Forests and Water", to be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, Switzerland on 21 March 2016. Member States will be informed about the whole portfolio of the Section's activity in this area and invited to provide feedback on the secretariat's work on communication and outreach.

**(d). Work area 4: Capacity-building**

The Joint Section finalised the implementation of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) capacity-building project on Sustainable Forest Management for Greener Economies in the Caucasus and Central Asia, launched jointly by ECE and FAO in 2013. The project supported development of national action plans for the forest sector in a green economy and related national forest policy processes. These activities culminated in a regional workshop organised in Georgia in April 2015, with participation from all seven project countries. The Joint Section developed a project proposal for a new UNDA project for 2016-2019 on Accountability Systems for Sustainable Forest Management in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Together with the Team of Specialists on Sustainable Forest Products, and the Team of Specialists on Green Jobs in the Forest Sector, the Joint Section organized a capacity building event in the Western Balkans on Forest Products Markets and Forest Sector Workforce, in December 2015 in Podgorica, Montenegro.

**Item 6: Roundtable discussion on potential implications of UNFCCC COP21 for forests and the forest sector**

15. The twenty-first session of the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC took place in December 2015, in Paris, France. The Paris Agreement and the outcomes of the UNFCCC COP21 cover all the crucial areas identified as essential for a landmark conclusion, including those related to forests and forest sector. The Agreement provided that countries were obliged to take action to conserve and enhance, as appropriate, sinks and reservoirs of GHGs including forests. Furthermore countries were encouraged to take action to implement and support sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon sinks in developing countries, including through results-based payments, policy approaches and positive incentives for activities relating to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and conservation, sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon sinks in developing countries.

16. The roundtable discussion intends to present the details of UNFCCC COP21 in relation to forests and the forest sector in the ECE region. After the introduction of the topic, experts on the

issue and delegates are invited to discuss possible implications of the COP21 decisions on forests and the forest sector in the region.

**Item 7: Report by the secretariat on the implementation of the outcomes of the self-evaluations from the thirty-fifth and thirty-seventh Working Party sessions**

17. The secretariat will recall the outcome of the last year's self-assessment and will report on which issues have been taken into consideration. Delegates are invited to provide guidance on the results and suggest further improvements.

**Item 8: Strategic Review of Integrated Programme of Work**

18. It is planned that the Strategic Review of the Integrated Programme of Work (IPoW) will be carried out jointly by ECE and FAO. The first part of the Review will be dedicated to evaluation of the IPoW 2014-2017, while the proposal of the IPoW for the next period (2018-2021) will be developed in the next stage of the process. The Joint Working Party will be informed about the arrangements for the overall review process and invited to provide feedback on the evaluation of the current Integrated Programme of Work.

**Item 9: Other business**

19. At the time of submission of this document, the Secretariat had no matters for discussion under this item. Delegates should feel free to raise issues that are of concern prior to or when this agenda item is discussed.

**Item 10: Date and place of next meeting**

20. The secretariat proposes to organize the next session in June 2017 in Geneva, Switzerland. The secretariat proposes that the thirty-ninth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management will be extended by four additional half-day sessions to last in total four calendar days. This offers the opportunity to member states to review the Integrated Programme of Work and discuss future direction of work of the Joint ECE/FAO Forestry and Timber Section as part of the Strategic Review for 2018-2021. Delegates are invited to discuss the idea, dates, as well as the structure of the Working Party 2017 and decide the official documentation (parliamentary documents) that will be needed to support the Strategic Review process.

**Item 11: Election of officers**

21. The Working Party is expected to elect a Chair and two Vice-Chairs, who will hold their office until the end of the thirty-ninth session. At its thirty-seventh session, the Working Party re-elected Mr. J. Hangler (Austria) as Chair, Ms. E. Maki-Simola (Finland) and Mr. J. Prestemon (United States of America) as Vice-Chairs to hold office until the end of the thirty-eighth session. According to existing current procedure, Ms. E. Maki-Simola would leave the bureau and Mr. J. Hangler will conclude his term of office as the Chair of the Joint Working Party and Mr. Prestemon would become Chair. Member States are invited to inform the Secretariat about their nomination of a candidate as Chair or Vice-Chair. The Secretariat will circulate an official communication on this to the Heads of Delegations.

**Item 12: Adoption of the report**

22. The Working Party will be invited to adopt the report of its session on the basis of a draft prepared by the secretariat.

**IV. Tentative timetable**

The secretariat organizes the thirty-eighth session of the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management as an integral part of several events around the International Day of Forests taking place in Geneva. The International Day of Forests will be organized on Monday 21 March 2016 on the theme "Forests and Water" and the Team of Specialists on Forest Products statistics will meet on Tuesday, 22 March 2016. While the events on 21 and 22 March are not officially part of the meeting, delegates to the Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management are invited to attend the events.

The Secretariat proposes the following tentative timetable:

**Monday, 21 March 2016** (not part of the official meeting)

Celebration of the International Day of Forests 2016: "*Forests and water*"

15:00 – 18:00          *Workshop*

18:00                  *Reception*

**Tuesday, 22 March 2016 – Meetings of Team of Specialists** (not part of the official meeting)

10:00 – 18:00          *Meeting of the Team of Specialists on Forest Products Statistics*

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***Joint ECE/FAO Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management,  
Thirty-eighth session***

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**Wednesday, 23 March 2016**

10:00 – 13:00          Items 1-5

15:00 – 18:00          Item 5 continued

**Thursday, 24 March 2016**

09:30 – 12:30          Item 5 continued and Item 6 Roundtable

14:30 – 17:30          Item 7 – 12

17:30                  Closing of 38<sup>th</sup> session of the JWPFSEM

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## V. List of important abbreviations and acronyms

COFFI	Committee on Forests and the Forest Industry
COP21	Twenty-first session of the conference of the parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ECE	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
EFC	European Forestry Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FRA	Global Forest Resources Assessment
HS	Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System
IDF	International Day of Forests
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPoW	Integrated Programme of Work
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IWG	Inter-secretariat Working Group
JFSQ	Joint Forest Sector Questionnaire
JWPFSEM	Joint Working Party on Forest Statistics, Economics and Management
SEMAFOR	System for the Evaluation of the Management of Forests
UNDA	United Nations Development Account
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ToS	Team of Specialists
WCO	World Customs Organization

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